
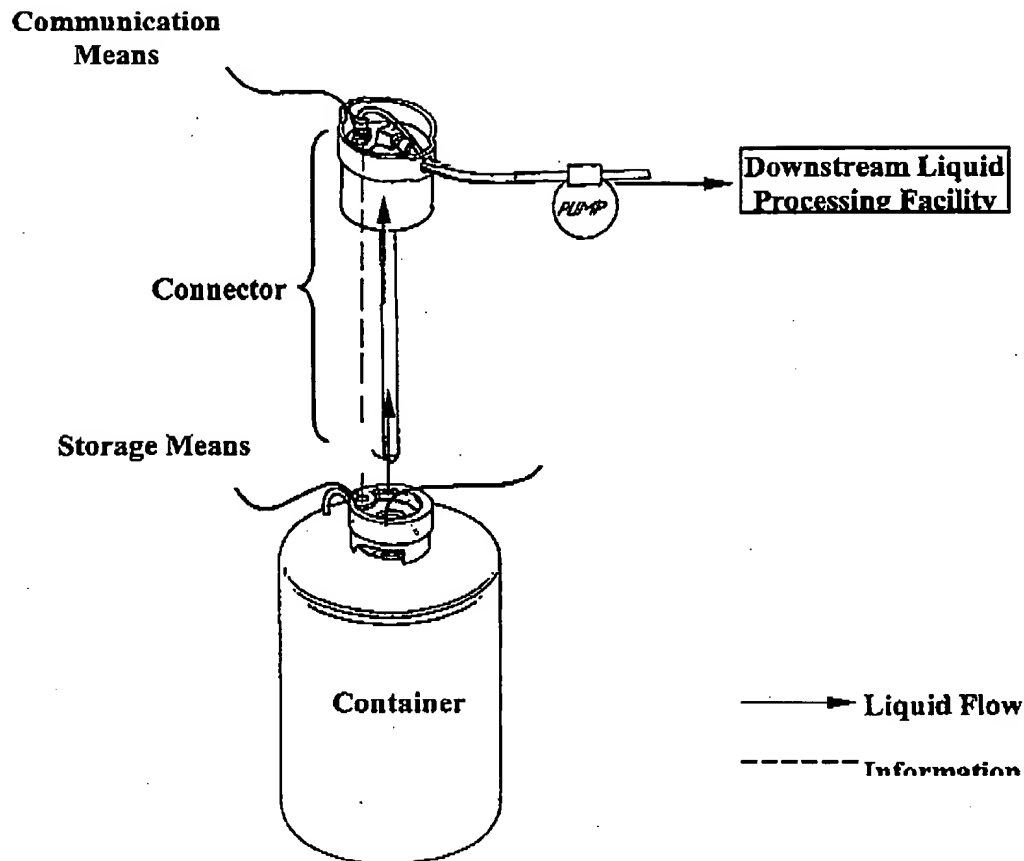


REMARKS**Rejections pursuant to 35 USC § 103**

The Examiner has rejected independent claims 1, 11, 16, 20 and 25 as unpatentable over Zugibe (U.S. Pat. No. 5,802,859) in view of McCarrick et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,953,682). The Examiner has similarly rejected all of the above noted claims as unpatentable over Leatherman (U.S. Pat. No. 6,571,151). Of these, claim 25 has been cancelled.

The Examiner has made the above rejections stating in part, with respect to the configuration and association of the storage and communication means, "What is too far away?" The Examiner points out that even connections "by satellite" are connections. However, as pointed out further herein, the particular "physical" configurations claimed in the present application provide significant improvement over Zugibe and McCarrick, whether viewed alone or in combination, and Leatherman.

Remaining independent claims have been amended to claim "a connector" that is for "physically coupling to" the "portion of" a "container" that has "a storage means coupled" thereto. It is this same connector which includes the "communication means" and allows "access to" the contents of the container "for processing". With reference to Fig. 3 below, described previously during the prosecution of this Application, an embodiment of a particular connector configuration is shown.




The above Fig. illustrates a configuration whereby a single connector, through which both liquid and information flow, is physically coupled to the container. In this configuration, information communication, between the storage means and the communication means, and liquid flow, between the container and downstream processing, are simultaneously subject to the same physical pathway of the connector. None of Zugibe, McCarrick, or Leatherman, whether considered alone or in combination, discloses a configuration which employs both information flow and liquid flow through a single physical pathway.

A Declaration of the first named inventor, Kevin T. O'Dougherty, is provided in conjunction with this Amendment and Response. As detailed further in the Declaration, a configuration that employs information flow and liquid flow through a single physical pathway in a simultaneous manner ensures the proper container is coupled to the connector for processing of material therein. This is achieved in a manner not heretofore disclosed.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-16, 18-24, 30, and 31 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (203) 794-1100 should this be seen as helpful in advancement of prosecution of this application. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0860.

Respectfully submitted,


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